

# 45,000 MEN OUT

MEAT PACKING PLANTS ARE DESERTED BY EMPLOYEES

STRIKERS ARE EXPECTING A LONG FIGHT

Will Equal the Anthracite Strike of two Years Ago—Work All Cleared Up Before Men Go Out—Difference in Wages of Unskilled Workmen

CHICAGO: As a result of a stubborn disagreement, chiefly over wages for unskilled labor, one of the most extensive strikes in the history of the meat packing industry of the United States began in Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Joseph and other cities where large packing plants are located. If prolonged, the strike is expected to cause widespread inconvenience, possibly equalling the anthracite coal famine of two years ago.

The unanimity of the strike was complete. More than 45,000 employees are directly involved. In Chicago alone 18,000 men are on strike.

The effect of the strike on the food supply of the country and the price of meats is being earnestly discussed, notwithstanding announcement that the packing houses, contrary to somewhat general expectations, will continue operations without any close-down, employing whatever help may be obtainable. How much alleviation in the furnishing of supplies to the public this course may afford is a matter of wide variation of opinion. The packers declare that hundreds of men who could not be provided with places have been applying daily for work.

The walkout here was started by the employees of the killing departments at the various packing houses. The killers were followed by the workers in the other departments as fast as the current work left by the slaughterers could be cleaned up. Thus as the workers in each department disposed of their part of the work they threw off their aprons and departed. This consideration was shown for the packers, the labor officials announced, because it was not the desire of the men to cause the employers any financial loss as a result of neglecting meat that was on hand to be dressed.

Watched by cordons of police, the strikers filed briskly out of the packing houses, carrying overalls, rubber boots and knives, cleavers and steels. The strikers were greeted by crowds of women and children, many of whom joined hands with the workmen on the outward march. There was absolutely no sign of disorder.

A picturesque scene was presented when the sausage factories and canneries were left by their forces. There are 1,000 girls employed in these two departments of the meat industry. Clad in the variegated garb of factory girls, this army of feminine strikers tripped blithely along the main thoroughfares of the stock yards and were roundly cheered as they emerged through the gates and distributed themselves in the crowd of men who had waited their coming.

President Donnelly of the Amalgamated meat cutters and butcher workmen of North America, leader of the strikers, said in a conversation that the strikers would have little difficulty withstanding a siege of a year with the packing houses. In Chicago thirty-five local unions are involved in the strike.

Arthur Meeker of Armour & Co., said:

"We consider the demands of the union for an advance in wages of unskilled labor entirely unwarranted by unusual conditions. We could not concede it and proposed to submit the question to arbitration, which the union declined to do, and called a strike. Every department is kept running, however. We have had applica-

tions from hundreds of unemployed men for positions at less wages than we have been paying, and every day expect to increase our output. We regret extremely the hardships and suffering that will be imposed on these men who are thrown out of work, directly and indirectly through the strike, and the temporary inconveniences caused the public at large, but we consider the fault rests entirely with the union, who not only asked what they were not entitled to, but declined to submit the question to impartial arbitration."

President Donnelly, the strike leader, said:

"I wish to make it clear that we are not fighting for an increase in wages, but against a decrease.

"Our original demand was for a minimum of twenty cents an hour for laborers. This demand was amended after our second conference with the packers in June.

"We agreed to a scale of 18½ cents an hour, except in Omaha and Sioux City, where the scale is 19 cents.

"The packers, on the other hand, refused to pay more than 17½ cents an hour, and declined to sign any agreements at all, except with a very small portion of the workmen.

"The question of wages to skilled men was not discussed. To unskilled workmen the average wage was 18½ cents, but when asked that this be made the minimum wage they cut it to 17½ cents and 15 cents. Men could live on 15 cents if they got steady work, but in some plants men have been able to make only thirteen hours a week at this wage scale. They could not live on it. No one could."

OKLAHOMA CITY: The price of meat has begun to soar as a result of the strike of the meat workers. A general advance of nearly a cent per pound has already been made in Kansas City on fresh meats. No raise has as yet been made upon salt meats, but a continuance of the strike for any length of time will set that going, too.

Chicago, St. Louis, Omaha and other cities are experiencing a like advance in the price of fresh meat. Very little live stock is being shipped into the market centers now. Both sides to the strike controversy are now talking of arbitrating their differences, but neither can agree upon the terms of the other. The strike may continue for some days, or it may not be settled for weeks. Developments in the next few days will tell as to the probable duration. Some packing houses in the larger cities are killing a few head a day, but it is only the stock in the yards or in transit that is being slaughtered.

## No Raise in Prices

OKLAHOMA CITY: Mr. Sparrow of the Oklahoma City Packing company, in an interview, stated that the present strike of the meat workers would have no effect upon the prices of dressed or cured meats in this section. The concern he represents is not in any way connected with the establishments affected by the strike. He stated that supplies will be furnished dealers throughout this section at prices prevailing before the strike, and the company would continue to pay the highest market prices for cattle and hogs. This will be good news to residents of both territories, who depend upon local butchers who secure their supplies from the packing houses.

## Can't Use Last Year's Surplus

GUTHRIE: Attorney General Simon has given an opinion in response to an inquiry from Adjutant General Burlingame, in which he holds that monies remaining from last year's appropriation for national guard encampment cannot be used as an additional fund for this year's encampment. Only \$2,900 of the \$4,000 appropriation was used last year and Burlingame's idea was to secure this additional amount for the September encampment at Fort Reno.

# KRUGER IS DEAD

FORMER PRESIDENT OF TRANSVAAL REPUBLIC IS NO MORE

BURIAL TO BE BY FORMER PRESIDENT

His People Regret Especially His Death Among Foreigners—Memorial Services Held in all Dutch Churches—Flags at Half Mast

CLAREN, SWITZERLAND: Paul Kruger, former president of the Transvaal republic, died here of pneumonia and supervening heart weakness.

Mr. Kruger arrived here the first of last May. The body was embalmed and will be taken to the Transvaal for burial.

PARIS: Paul Kruger's death has aroused widespread sympathy here, owing to French sympathy for the Boer cause and personal admiration for the ex-president. When in Mentone recently his health was gradually failing through old age, constitutional disorders and threatened trouble. Visitors described him as being a pathetic figure of calm endurance. His eyesight had dimmed, but he sat much with his Bible open to him, muttering well known passages. He avoided references to the Boer war.

PRETORIA, TRANSVAAL: General Louis Botha, the former commander-in-chief of the Boer forces, received a cable message announcing Mr. Kruger's death. The announcement called forth general expressions of regret, especially because the ex-president died among foreigners.

The flags on all the government buildings are at half mast.

Mr. Kruger will be buried beside the former presidents of the Transvaal, unless his will has provided otherwise.

Memorial services will be held in all Dutch churches. General Botha has ordered that all the Boers shall wear mourning until after the funeral, which, it is expected, will be attended by the representatives of every district of the Transvaal.

## GRAND ARMY REUNION

Old Soldiers of Four Commonwealths to Meet in Tulsa in September

TULSA: The Grand Army of the Republic of Indian Territory, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri will hold an encampment here September 27 to 29. Invitations have been extended to all, and accepted by General Black, commander of the G. A. R. of the United States, and others. The commander of the local post has sent the following letter of invitation to the posts of the surrounding country:

"My Dear Sir and Comrade: Our post, No. 16, sends greeting to the officers and comrades of your post and asks the pleasure of your company at a grand encampment to be held in this city on September 27, 28 and 29. In soliciting the pleasure of your company on this occasion we assure you that our city, which is known for its hospitality, will spare no means to make the occasion memorable.

"Among our visitors will be some men the most notable of the country, who have responded favorably to our invitation. We earnestly ask that you and your comrades will be with us, and ask that you take steps at your next meeting to this effect. The different lines of railroad will make special rates.

"Let us make this occasion a pleasant one for our aged veterans and their families, and to the latter end we give you the assurances that our W. R. C. will extend to them a royal welcome."

## INDICATIONS OF POSSESSION

Fence Posts Denote Ownership of Indian Land

VINITA: The commissioner of Indian affairs has rendered an important decision in which he holds that fence posts being placed eighteen feet apart on a piece of land in the Cherokee nation under contest of ownership were fair indications of possession. The ruling was in the case of Dora M. Horn vs. Joe Queen, and a decision of the Dawes commission was reversed.

In September, 1902, Edward Cawood entered a forty-acre tract of land and put a string of posts on the south side for a distance of 200 yards, and intended to string wire on the posts. These posts constituted the only improvements on the land. As Cawood was indebted to Dora M. Horn, he traded his posts, with all his interest in the land, and gave her his permission to file on the land, and later embodied this permission in a bill of sale, dated March 1, 1903.

After her purchase of the posts Dora Horn never occupied the land, either in person or by tenant, nor did she do anything to reduce the land to possession, but stated that at the time she purchased the posts she was making her home with her mother on a farm adjoining the land in dispute, and had selected this land in good faith for her allotment. Joe Queen, who lives two miles distant, filed on the land in question, contending that the posts for 200 yards on the south was not sufficient improvement to allow Dora Horn to hold it.

The Dawes commission, in deciding the case, held as follows:

"The mere placing of these posts on said land was not sufficient to segregate the tract from the public domain, and their presence on said land was not a fair indication that it was occupied or in the possession of anyone."

From this decision J. C. Starr, attorney for Dora Horn, appealed to the commissioner of Indian affairs. The Indian office reversed the Dawes commission decision and held that the placing of posts eighteen feet apart for 200 yards on the south side of the land in controversy was a fair indication of possession and sufficient to put the contestee upon inquiry as to whom said improvements belonged. The contestee, Dora M. Horn, being the owner of said improvements, with the preferential right to select lands so as to include her improvements, should be awarded the lands in controversy as a portion of her allotment selection.

## NEW COURT DATES

Judge Raymond Fixes Time for Holding Court in His District

MUSKOGEE: Judge C. W. Raymond has made an order fixing the dates of holding court in the six court towns of his district for the remainder of the year 1904 and 1905. It will be noticed that Judge Raymond takes the Muskogee docket and that Judge Sulzacker, the newly appointed judge, is given all the other terms. It will be found, however, that the Muskogee docket contains more hard work for the presiding judge than all the other court towns combined. The dates for holding court follow: Muskogee, Judge Raymond presiding, October 3, 1904, January 9, April 10, October 2, 1905; Enfield, Judge Sulzacker presiding, November 21, 1905; Okmulgee, November 7, 1904; January 9, February 6, November 6, 1905; Sapulpa, December 5, 1904, March 20, May 12, December 4, 1905; Wagoner, December 12, 1904; March 6, April 24, December 11, 1905, and Wewoka, October 24, 1904, April 10, May 8, October 23, 1905.

Oklahoma City will have a four days' race meeting August 15-18, at which time a string of the best horses in the country will compete for \$5,000 in purses. The city is preparing to entertain 15,000 people on that occasion.